

Please do not grant Verizon's petition for the FCC to stop regulating broadband service. Verizon has been gobbling up its competition and using aggressive tactics in an effort to transform itself back into the Ma Bell that 'doesn't need your dime' and doesn't care about customers' interests. Strengthening competition for ISP and DSL service is the only way of assuring both that consumers have lots of options and that prices stay low and competitive.

As my independent ISP says, "If this petition is granted, the large phone companies would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs like BerkshireNet. As a result, we would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise our prices, and yours in the long term. Verizon already makes it difficult for ISPs to provide DSL service to its customers. But the more serious threat is that phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for DSL service, and no ISP would be able to sell DSL at all."

Thanks for protecting my interests as a consumer and voter.